

The Missouri Public Service Commission

Informed Consumers, Quality Utility Services, and a Dedicated Organization for Missourians in the 21st Century

THE COST OF ELECTRICITY

Through the combined efforts of all parties involved in proceedings before the Public Service Commission, Missouri customers have benefitted from low electric rates. Missouri's electric rates for residential, commercial and industrial customers continue to be below the national average.

DID YOU KNOW?

► If your house has air conditioning, then the middle of summer is a time when you are going to use a lot of power. An air conditioner might run 10 to 15 hours a day. The same applies in the winter if you use the furnace a lot.

► Heating water uses a large amount of power. For example, when you take a shower or run a load of clothes in the washer, the electric water heater might run for an hour reheating the water in the tank. On average, the water heater is on for about three hours a day.

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER COMPARISON

<u>State Name</u>	<u>Avg. Rate (cents/kWh)</u>	<u>State Rank</u>
Hawaii	16.57	1
Illinois	8.39	21
Iowa	8.51	19
U.S. Avg.	8.71	
Kansas	7.78	30
Arkansas	7.36	38
Missouri	6.97	43
Kentucky	5.81	51

Source: US Energy Information Administration - 2003 data

WHAT IS A KILOWATT-HOUR?

We pay for electricity in kilowatt-hours (kWhs). Your electric bill indicates the exact number of kilowatt-hours you used as determined by a reading of your electric meter. The dollar amount of your bill is based on this number of kilowatt-hours.

$$\frac{\text{Watts X Hours used}}{1,000} = \text{kWhs}$$

One kilowatt-hour is the equivalent of using 1,000 watts for one hour or using a 100-watt light bulb for 10 hours.

NOTE: In Missouri, residential customers pay an average of 6.97 cents per kilowatt-hour.

SOME EXAMPLES

(Based on Typical Consumption)

Hair dryer (1,200 watts) - 8 cents per hour

Heat pump or central air (15,000 watts) - \$1.05 per hour

Water heater or clothes dryer (4,000 watts) - 28 cents per hour

Refrigerator (1,000 watts) - 7 cents per hour

Space heater (1,500 watts) - 11 cents per hour

NOTE: Figures are based on 7 cents/kWh rate.

For more information



Created in 1913, the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) regulates over 1,000 investor-owned telecommunications, water and sewer, natural gas, electric and steam utilities. The PSC works to ensure that Missouri citizens receive safe, reliable and reasonably priced utility services. If you have an inquiry, billing question or service-related problem that your utility provider cannot answer, please call the PSC at **1-800-392-4211** or visit our website at **www.psc.mo.gov**